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ISSUED WEEKLY.

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Fingers all there?

Illinois undertakers have decided to call themselves morticians. What's the difference?

Graft has been discovered in the British army. Nothing more cosmopolitan than "graft."

Senator Foraker declares he will fight the Brownsville matter to a finish. We can see it.

The "Black Hand" seems to be very much in need of the immediate attention of the "mailed fist."

Mr. Rockefeller doubtless feels like whispering "cut it short" into the ears of Chancellor Day.

Under the circumstances the railroads ought to be willing to pay for the twine used in the postal department.

If Senator Foraker can control the negro vote, what's the use of any other republican trying for election?

Even the French people will admit that there is an appreciable difference between wine riots and bread riots.

Czar Nicholas may discover when too late that the douma which suits him will not suit the Russian people at all.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger calls Colliers' Weekly a "yellow journal." Well, we prefer "yellow" to "washed out."

A number of gentlemen "close to the president" are talking like men who would prefer being closer to the appointment.

The New York Life Insurance company is now telling by its actions just what it thinks of the Hughes' insurance revelations.

The Knox boom has sixty-eight delegates behind it. The Grant boom had, if we remember rightly, 312 behind it—and yet!

Attorney General Jackson of New York has decided that an oyster is a wild animal. Nature faking will now receive a fresh impetus.

The average American can begin to appreciate conditions in Russia when he learns that during the last year that country spent \$20,000,000 for prisons and only \$12,000,000 for schools.

In addition to the Pennsylvania delegates the Knox boom is weighted down with the endorsement of several Pittsburg millionaires.

Mr. Rockefeller has paid a fine for "scorching" with his automobile. Up to date he has not paid Texas that fine for "burning them up."

With a \$24,000,000 dividend on a \$12,000,000 capital the Adams Express company does not seem to be on the eve of bankruptcy.

The New York World, having received the answer to its question, "What is a democrat?" should not blame others because it is not able to grasp it.

In view of the stories they have been forced to wire out we do not blame the San Francisco telegraphers for striking for shorter hours and better wages.

Senator-elect Gore of Oklahoma has been blind since boyhood. But he has been able to see a great many evils perpetrated by the trusts and monopolies.

It strikes the unprejudiced observer that the Japanese are awfully anxious to secure admission into a country where they claim to be so badly treated.

If President Roosevelt wants to tackle a really live question, let him consider for a few moments the addleheaded man who persists in rocking the boat.

A large number of newspapers owned by men who also own the railroads are explaining why Governor Hughes was right in vetoing the two-cent fare law.

General Funston's remarks about the "unwhipped mob" is in very poor taste. That "unwhipped mob" helps to pay for the Funstonian shoulderstraps.

The Missouri justices of the supreme court have decided to wear gowns on the bench. We are prepared to expect almost anything of Missouri since that fluke in 1904.

If Secretary Taft visits the Philippines while his boom is afloat the Filipinos deserve to be excused if they take it to be an intimation that the franchise is in sight for them.

An explorer has discovered another race of pigmies in Central Africa. He could have found them nearer home by exploring in the fastnesses of "standpattism."

While cutting a \$24,000,000 melon the Adams Express company is putting up a plea of poverty in Nebraska in order to prevent a twenty-five per cent reduction in express rates.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger is not satisfied with Mr. Bryan's answer to the New York World's question, "What is a democrat?" Some department store manager must have told the Public Ledger.

Funny, isn't it, that when the railroads want to raise rates they do not make inquiry and satisfy the public as to the justice thereof; but when the public reduces rates the railroads insist upon inquiry.

An expert drilled into the vault of the Pennsylvania state treasury with a common breast drill in less than four hours. A lot of other experts were ahead of him, and they used only their fingers and brains.

A paragrapher says that it is undignified for Mr. Bryan to travel without a secretary. If he traveled with a secretary when he did not need one then some paragrapher would think it very undemocratic. Too bad, but it is impossible to please some critics.

And now comes a press dispatch from Indianapolis to the effect that the Standard Oil company is using a five-gallon can which is three pints short. The company, so the dispatch reads, refuses to allow its 80,000 cans to be inspected. Can it be that there is any connection between the three pints and Mr. Rockefeller's contributions to educational institutions?

Paragraphic Punches

If Milwaukee is going to back Taft, then his boom will not likely dry up and blow away.—Los Angeles Express.

Nothing in President Roosevelt's Jamestown speeches on Georgia day was half so eloquent as his silence on the tariff.—Norfolk Pilot.

Governor Hughes says reason is his only guide. That's one that most of the politicians have overlooked.—Baltimore Sun.

When the railroads talk about their "impaired credit," they remind us of the boy who cut his own finger and then wondered why it bled.—Atlanta Constitution.

It is said that the president will not reply to Dr. Long. There seems to come times when silence is the better part of wisdom, even for the president.—Bristol Courier.

If Czar Nicholas keeps on he may eventually furnish the text for a real "Decline and Fall of the Russian Empire" for future Weggs and Bofins to study.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Pittsburg will not take "The Bath." But this bath was a picture by a French artist, and it didn't wear clothes enough to stand the Pittsburg climate.—Baltimore Sun.

More men have been raised in the backwoods who have not been ashamed of the family tree than many of those raised in the garden of culture.—Baltimore Labor Leader.

Governor Sheldon, of Nebraska, has sprung a new and nobby silk tile. But the governor knew enough not to make a break of that kind during the campaign.—Sioux City Journal.

"Be a good boy, Willie, and some day you may be president and have 10,000 camels named after you," says the Dallas News. Do you mean Willie B. or Willie T.?—Washington Herald.

Mr. Roosevelt's remark that the best crop of all is the crop of children is probably all right, but nothing could be better than the crop of June brides' looks.—Kansas City Journal.

It appears now that Mr. Roosevelt did not ejaculate "cut it short" during those Georgia day speeches. Sometimes he restrains that "habit of talking aloud."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

"The common people hold the power," observes Ambassador Bryce, which is probably the first time Rockefeller, Morgan and Harriman have been called so hard a name.—Detroit News.

An exchange mentions the fact that while delivering a speech recently Mr. Fairbanks kept his eyes on his feet. Perhaps he knows how anxious some politicians are to pull them out from under him.—Washington Post.

San Francisco will protect itself from future fires with fresh water reservoirs, salt water pumping stations and three large pumping boats. Other cities should have the foresight to profit by this hindsight.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Twenty more indicted furniture dealers who pleaded guilty to violating the anti-trust law have been fined from \$10 to \$25 each at Portland, Ore., where there seems to be little disposition to run amuck.—Indianapolis News.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

As this copy of The Commoner may be read by some one not familiar with the details of the primary pledge plan, it is necessary to say that according to the terms of this plan every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention unless unavoidably prevented, and to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge, which is printed on page 12.